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ANNUAL REPORT FOR

1953

to

THE EVESHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

by

J. J. MURRAY M.B., D.P.H.

(District Medical Officer of Health)





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BOROUGH OF EVESHAM.

Public Health Staff.

Medical Officer of Health. J. J. Murray, M.B., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector: L. C. Melton, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspector. P. M. Jones, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.

Committees Concerned with Public Health Matters.

Public Health Committee: Chairman - Councillor Masters.

Housing Committee: Chairman - Councillor Andrews.

General Statistics.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,958
Population, Registrar-General's estimate mid 1953	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,030
Number of inhabited houses at 1st April, 1953	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,420
Rateable value at 1st April, 1953	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£91,356
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£365

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1953.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I beg to present the Annual Report on the health of your District for the year 1953.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	115	111	226
Illegitimate	6	2	8
	121	113	234

STILL BIRTHS.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	1	1	2

Birth-rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	- 19.5	1952 18.0
Still birth-rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	- 8.5	14.0

DEATHS:

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Tot.</u>
	189	120	309	70	63	133
Death-rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population -	25.7					11.1
Deaths from pregnancy and childbirth		- Nil.				
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births -	Nil.					

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	
Deaths of infants under one year	6	3	9	4
Deaths of legitimate infants	6	3	9	4
Deaths of illegitimate infants	-	-	-	-

DEATH RATES OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR:

All infants per 1,000 live births	- 38.5	18.6
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	- 39.8	19.5
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	- Nil	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	46	23
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil	Nil

Comparison with some of the figures for the whole country is as follows -

	<u>England & Wales.</u>	<u>District.</u>	<u>District.</u>
	<u>1953</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1952</u>
Birth-rate	15.5	19.5	18.0
Death-rate	11.4	25.7	11.1
Infant Mortality rate	26.8	38.5	18.6

CAUSES OF DEATH TABLE FOR 1953.

<u>Causes of Death.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
1. T. B. of respiratory system	1	1	2
2. Other forms of T. B.	2	-	2
3. Syphilitic diseases	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	1	1
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and para. dis.	-	-	-
10. Cancer of Stomach	5	2	7
11. Cancer of Lungs	3	-	3
12. Cancer of Breast	-	3	3
13. Cancer of Uterus	-	2	2
14. Cancer - Lymph. and other types	14	17	31
Total:	22	24	46
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	-	-
16. Diabetes	-	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	29	24	53
18. Coronary Dis., Angina	15	3	18
19. Hypertension with heart dis.	6	6	12
20. Other heart dis.	53	29	82
21. Other circulatory dis.	2	-	2
22. Influenza	-	5	5
23. Pneumonia	4	2	6
24. Bronchitis	10	2	12
25. Other dis. of resp. system	3	-	3
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	2	2
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	-	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	2	-	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined dis.	37	20	57
33. Motor vehicle accidents	-	-	-
34. Other accidental causes	-	1	1
35. Suicide	1	-	1
36. Other violent causes	-	-	-
TOTAL:	189	120	309

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

The Regional Hospital Board arrangements for the treatment of infectious diseases and the ambulance system are both working quite satisfactorily.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The quality of the Borough water continues to be quite satisfactory.

The yield of the springs plus the permitted abstraction from Pinnock has met the consumption without the necessity of turning off during the year. The gradual increase in consumption each year due to housing development, etc. in the town, however, has made it necessary for the Council to consider arrangements for obtaining bulk supplies from other local authorities.

Twelve samples of water from the chlorinated town supply were submitted to bacteriological examination and chemical analysis with satisfactory results. Two samples taken at source were also submitted to chemical analysis and both proved satisfactory.

The town water has a slight action on lead but the County Analyst reports that the amount of metal likely to be dissolved under ordinary circumstances would be harmless.

Approximately 3,420 houses in the Borough are supplied by piped water and there are no stand-pipes in use for domestic supply.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Approval in principle has now been received from the Ministry of Housing & Local Government in connection with the construction of the New Sewage Disposal Works for the Borough and it is anticipated that a start will be made in 1954.

Every endeavour has been made to keep the existing Sewage Works in a working condition within the limits of the small amount of money available but there is, unfortunately, no improvement in the final effluent.

Approval in principle was received from the Ministry in November in connection with the Fairfield Relief Sewer which will deal with the drainage from the Fairfield Housing Estate and the new Secondary Modern School in that area. It is expected that the laying of the sewer will commence in early 1954.

HOUSING.

Building work has continued on the Council's Fairfield Housing Estate and a further 62 dwellings were completed here during 1953 making a total of 448 dwellings built by the Council in the Borough since the war, made up as follows:-

Traditional Houses	305
Maisonettes	40
Permanent Prefabricated Houses	74
Temporary Prefabricated Houses	29

	448
	=====

In addition, 18 houses were completed under private enterprise during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Inspections of premises under the Food & Drugs Act were carried out by the Sanitary Inspector and his assistant.

Meat Inspection was carried out at the local bacon factory and all carcasses were inspected. Whenever possible ante-mortem inspection was also carried out. Approximately 40% of the inspectors' time was taken up with this work.

RECORD OF INSPECTION AND CONDEMNATION.

	<u>Pigs.</u>
Number killed	38,121
Number inspected	38,121
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis:</u>	
Whole carcasses condemned	18
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1281
Approximate percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than T. B. ...	3.4
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>	
Whole carcasses condemned	19
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1311
Percentage of number inspected affected with T. B.	3.5%

Amongst the chief causes of condemnation other than tuberculosis was bruising, abscesses, cysts, pneumonia, nephritis and necrotic livers.

The weight of meat condemned amounted to nearly 19 tons; this was disposed of in the bacon factory's digesting plant.

Other foodstuffs found to be unfit and voluntarily surrendered were:-

Tinned Goods	-	1669
Bottled Goods	-	64
Fish	-	1982 lbs.
Cheese	-	87 lbs.
Meat products	-	1307 lbs.
Other goods	-	459 lbs.
Fruit	-	1972 lbs.

With the exception of the fish, these goods were disposed of at the Council's refuse tip. The fish was utilised for pig food.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

Number of dairymen and purveyors	-	4.
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Two of the above maintain pasteurising plants and the other two are distributors only.

Only heat treated milk is sold in the area and all 46 samples taken proved to be satisfactory. Forty-seven inspections of dairies and delivery vehicles were made.

FOOD SHOPS AND CAFES.

Grocers, greengrocers, sweet shops and mixed food trade	...	...	...	92
Butchers	...	...	...	12
Bakers and Confectioners	...	...	...	13
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	5
Wet Fish Shops	...	...	...	3
Cafes	...	...	...	21
Licensed Premises including Clubs	...	...	...	38

Routine inspections of food premises and cafes were carried out and 351 inspections made. The general standard of these premises is regarded as satisfactory but 21 informal notices were served, and complied with, requiring works of repair, redecoration, cleansing and other hygienic measures.

ICE CREAM.

Number of premises registered for manufacture	-	2
Number of premises registered for sale	-	56

Both manufacturers in the district produce heat treated ice cream and adequate satisfactory premises and equipment are provided. One of the manufacturers discontinued production during the year.

The bulk of the ice cream sold in the Borough is of well known manufacture and of 55 samples taken only one proved to be unsatisfactory. This sample was of ice cream produced locally and on a check of production methods it was found to be due to inadequate sterilisation of the homogeniser. Subsequent samples from the same source proved satisfactory.

Seventy-three visits of inspection were made to ice cream premises.

MANUFACTURE OF SAUSAGE, POTTED, PRESSED, PICKLED AND PRESERVED FOODS.

Although 8 premises in the Borough are registered for the purpose only a few are now used. Sixty-three inspections were made and four requests for replacement of worn equipment and lack of cleanliness were complied with.

CAMPING SITES.

Seven site licences are now in operation in the district accommodating approximately 100 caravans and chalets. With tents during the holiday periods about 750 people make use of these sites. In addition there are 6 individual caravan licences.

All sites continued to be well maintained, four having main sewer connections with proper sanitary and ablution blocks. All have mains water connections.

About 50 caravans and chalets on three sites are in permanent occupation.

No further shack development is allowed on any of the sites.

SWIMMING BATHS.

The public open-air swimming bath at Common Road is municipally owned. Water is derived from the town mains and continuous break-point chlorination and filtration ensures purity. Daily tests for the efficiency of chlorination proved satisfactory.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health:-

Premises.	Number on Register	Inspect- ions.	Number of written notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
(1) Factories in which Sec. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	8	4	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	96	25	5	-
(3) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excl'dg. outworkers' premises).	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	104	29	5	-

2. Cases in which defects were found:-

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Insp.	
Lack of cleanliness	1	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Sanitary Conveniences:</u>					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	3	-	2	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act	6	6	-	6	-
TOTAL:	11	10	-	8	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

OUTWORK
(Sections 110 & 111)

During the year 3 Outworkers were employed in the Borough on glove making. Working conditions were found to be quite satisfactory.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notified diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1953:-

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases</u> <u>Notified.</u>	<u>Admitted to</u> <u>Hospital.</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Deaths.</u>
Scarlet Fever	3	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-
Pneumonia	4	1	6
Dysentery	-	-	-
Measles	164	-	-
Whooping Cough	13	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	2	1
Acute Encephalitis	1	1	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-
	<u>188</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASES
CASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE
YEAR 1953.

	Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Measles	Whooping Cough	Erysipelas	Acute Poliomyelitis	Acute Encephalitis
Under 1 year	-	-	4	2	-	-	-
1 - 2 years.	-	-	24	2	-	-	1
3 - 4 "	-	-	35	1	-	-	-
5 - 10 "	3	-	99	8	-	1	-
11 - 15 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16 - 20 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21 - 35 "	-	2	2	-	-	1	-
36 - 45 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
46 - 65 "	-	2	-	-	1	-	-
66 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>164</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>

SCARLET FEVER.

Three school-children in the 5 - 10 age group were notified as suffering from Scarlet Fever in February but no removal to hospital was necessary and all recovered.

DIPHTHERIA.

No cases of Diphtheria were reported during the year.

WHOOPING COUGH AND MEASLES.

The 13 cases of Whooping Cough which were notified during the latter six months of the year showed a further decrease over the previous two years when 31 and 24 cases were recorded in 1951 and 1952 respectively.

An outbreak of Measles occurred during the first half of the year, 160 of the 164 cases being notified before the end of June. Children in the 5 - 10 age group were most affected.

There were no deaths from either disease.

POLIOMYELITIS.

Two cases of Poliomyelitis were notified in November. The first, a non-paralytic case, was notified on the 6th November and occurred in a girl aged $6\frac{1}{2}$ years; she was removed to hospital and made a good recovery.

No connection could be traced with the second, a paralytic case occurring in a woman aged 27 years. Following removal to hospital the patient died and the diagnosis was only established after a post-mortem and pathological investigation. Clinically, paralysis was of the rapidly ascending type, death occurring in four days from respiratory muscle failure.

No further cases occurred.

FOOD POISONING.

No cases of Food Poisoning were reported during the twelve months.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

During the year immunisation of children against diphtheria has been carried on actively and a total of 167 children were immunised as follows -

0 - 4 (inc)

161

5 - 14 (inc)

6

These figures include immunisations carried out by private practitioners.

During 1953, 212 boosting injections were also given to four and five year old children.

Since 1940 to the end of 1953 a total of 3,674 children in the Borough have been immunised against diphtheria.

No school closure was necessitated by infectious disease during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table gives particulars of the 16 new cases of Tuberculosis (as against 14 in 1952), and of all deaths from the disease in the Borough during 1953:-

<u>Age Groups.</u>	<u>NEW CASES.</u>				<u>DEATHS.</u>			
	<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-pulm.</u>		<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-pulm.</u>	
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Under 1 year.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4 years	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
5 - 14 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24 "	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34 "	1	3	-	-	-	1	-	-
35 - 44 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 54 "	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55 - 64 "	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
	8	6	2	-	1	1	2	-

1952.

Number of deaths from non-notified Tuberculosis	-	2	Nil
Total number of Tuberculosis deaths	-	4	3

SUMMARY.

The birth-rate showed an increase over last year and is considerably above the rate for the whole of the country. The proportion of male births over females was small.

The large increase in the death-rate is due to the fact that deaths occurring at Avonside Hospital with its large number of elderly patients - few of them originally Borough residents - had to be included in the total by instruction of the Registrar-General. This is, however, now to be cancelled and revision to the original method will take place in 1954.

It is estimated that the true (but, at present, unofficial) Borough death-rate would be approximately 12.0 per 1,000 of the population.

There was one death from Poliomyelitis during the year.

The incidence and deaths from Tuberculosis show little appreciable change.

There were 9 infant deaths this year as against 4 in 1952. Seven out of the nine occurring in children under 4 weeks of age.

The health of the Borough can be adjudged as satisfactory.

I am indebted to the Sanitary Inspector and his staff for their assistance during the year.

I am, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. J. MURRAY.

Medical Officer of Health.

